

IN THE CLAIMS:

The listing of claims below will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 5 (cancelled).

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for joining at least two gas turbine components under dynamic load comprising:

aligning the at least two gas turbine components relative to one another in an aligned position;

joining the at least two gas turbine components together in the aligned position by an auxiliary weld; and

welding the at least two gas turbine components using laser powder build-up welding to form a separate weld to join said at least two gas turbine components together.

Claim 7 (canceled).

Claim 8 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the auxiliary weld is produced by laser welding or electron-beam welding.

Claim 9 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the at least two gas turbine components comprise at least two rotor discs of a compressor rotor or a turbine rotor, each of the at least two rotor discs including an axially extending flange; and wherein the step of welding joins together the at least two rotor discs at said axially extending flanges of said at least two rotor discs.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method as recited in Claim 6, wherein the at least two gas turbine components comprise at least two rotor discs of a compressor rotor or a turbine rotor, each of the at least two rotor discs including an axially extending flange;

wherein the step of aligning includes axially aligning the axially extending flanges;

wherein the step of joining comprises forming the auxiliary weld at an intersection of the axially extending flanges;

and wherein the step of welding joins together the at least two rotor discs at said axially extending flanges of said at least two rotor discs.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 10, wherein the axially extending flanges of said at least two rotor discs, when aligned, form a pool crater for the laser powder build up welding.